

Please accept the following testimony on S.J.36.

I would urge that S.J. 36 be acted on favorably. Some of the valuable open space lands that the State of Connecticut now is blessed with came as a result of generous people giving the lands to the State in the belief that the property that they loved would be both preserved and made available to the citizens for their enjoyment forever. Even the lands that were purchased were purchased with tax dollars from all of Connecticut's citizens, many with the expectations that their investment would be there for future generations of all of Connecticut citizens. While it may be necessary in rare circumstances for the State to divest itself of a specific piece of property, such divestment should be carefully thought through and the process should be transparent. Constitutionally mandated public hearings that would include the necessity of the divestment, the dollar value of the land in question, the environmental value of the land in question and the recreational value of the land in question as well as what the State would be getting in return, would help provide both the transparency and the careful thought. I would urge the legislature to allow all the citizens to decide this issue by putting this constitutional amendment on the ballot this November.

Thank you

Sincerely,

John Folsom  
PO Box 62  
95 Wolf Den Road  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259  
(860)928-2004